



A Catalog of the Bi-  
shops of Excester, with the descrip-  
tion of the antiquitie and first foun-  
dation of the Cathedrall Church  
of the same.

Collected by Iohn Vowell alias  
Hoker, Gentleman.

*Hooker Iohn*

Ezec. 3. Act. 20.

I haue made thee watch-man ouer the house of Is-  
rael, to giue them warning from me. Take heed  
therefore to your selues, and to the flocke  
whereof the holie Ghost hath made you ouer-  
seers.



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To the Right Honourable and Reue-  
*rend Father in God, John by the sufferance*  
 of God Bishop of Excester, and to the Right  
*worshipfull and Reuerend the Deane and Chapter*  
 of the same; John Vowell *alias* Hoker,  
 wisheth grace mercie and peace.



Bout a few yeares past, right Honorable, re-  
 uerend and worshipfull, I was requested to giue out  
 the description of the citie of Excester, some one  
 (then liuing) pretending and minding after the or-  
 der of Ministers, to set forth a generall description  
 of the whole realme of England, and also a Topo-  
 graphical and a particular discourse of euerie pro-  
 uince, citie, and towne, in the same. This request ten-  
 ding to so good an end, liked me so well, that albeit I  
 were and am verie vnfit, and of small knowledge, to  
 wade into such a matter: yet when I sawe no man would take it in hand, I was  
 contented to yeeld therevnto. And finding no such thing before doone, my  
 paines were the greater, and I driuen to make the more diligent search and in-  
 quirie, for such old and ancient presidents, records and writings, as might be  
 found and had for my best furtherance herein. In which my trauels; it was my  
 hap among other things, to haue the sight of a certaine table within your Ca-  
 thedrall church, which cheefelie contained a cerreine Catalog of a few Bishops  
 thereof. I did not so much reioise at the sight thereof, at the first, but when I had  
 throughlie perused and considered the same, I was sorie, that no one man, in the  
 course of manie yeares, had continued it. At length, considering with my selfe,  
 that there is such a sympathie and affinitie, betweene this citie and the church,  
 both which are inclosed and inuironed within one wall, and be as it were one  
 bodie, though in cerreine priuiledges distinguished; and that in the search for  
 the one, I might the better doo the like in the other, I did resolue my selfe, to be-  
 stowe my trauels in both alike; and yet greatlie was I herein discouraged, for  
 being an earnest supor to some of your owne companie, for some helpe out of  
 your auncient records; I had small furtherance; some being more suspicious  
 than needed; some if I may speake it, vnder your patience, not vnlike *Aesops*  
*dogge*, who would neither eate haie himselfe, nor yet suffer the oxe to doo it, by  
 meanes whereof, I was driuen to picke out els where what I could, which I doo  
 persuaide my selfe to be so much the more imperfect. Well, what I haue doone  
 for the citie, I haue presented it to the Maior and magistrates of the same; and  
 what I haue doone concerning your church, I doo here most humble offer vnto  
 you, the effect whereof is, The antiquitie and first foundation of your cathedrall  
 church, when and by whom the same was doone, and then the Catalog of all the  
 Bishops that I can find, which haue beene of this prouince, as well before as si-  
 thence the sea was stablished in this church and citie. And for as much as the  
 Bishops were alwaies accompted to be the fathers of Gods people, for the di-  
 rection of them in all holines, vertue and religion, I will by way of a little in-  
 troduction, set downe the beginning of christiuan religion, within this realme,

## The Epistle Dedicatorie.

and of the first placing and appointing of Bishops ouer this prouince and countrie of Deuon and Cornewall. It is recorded in sundrie histories, that immediately vpon the death of Christ, the Gospell was preached in this land of England. Some write, that *Simon Zelotes*, one of the apostles was here and preached; some write that *S. Paule* was here, and did the like; some saie that *Ioseph of Arimathea*, did come into this land, when king *Arviragus* reigned, & did both preach and baptize the king and his people; some saie that it was some one of the apostles, but they name him not; but whosoever was the preacher, true it is, that Christ was preached, and his Gospell receiued, euen with the first: notwithstanding, the seed was cast among the thornes and high waies, and brought forth no fruit, but as a candle vnder the bushell, and as fire raked vp in the imbers, it seemed to be hidden and buried, vntill the time of king *Lucius* the sonne of king *Coyleo*, who about the yeare of the Lord 187. was by the goodnes of God called to the knowledge of the Gospell; and he forthwith expelled all the Archflamines and Flamines, and constituted in their places, Archbishops and Bishops, which were in number three of the one, and xxviij. of the other; and at this time the prouinces of Deuon and Cornewall were vnder the Archbishop of London, for of anie other particular Bishop, there is no mention made. And notwithstanding, the Gospell had his free passage for the time, yet clouds couered the sunne, and through persecutions, the godlie were put to silence, and the true religion seemed to be extinguished, for almost about foure hundred yeares, vntill the time of king *Vlphus*, then king of West sex, or West Saxonie, who about the yeare of our Lord 636. was conuerred vnto christian religion, by the good and godlie man *Birinus*, and the see for West sex was appointed to be at Dorchester, and then vnder the same were the prouinces of Deuon and Cornewall about twentie yeares, vntill the time of *Kimwalchus*, who builded the church of Winchester, about the yeare 654. and he remooued the see from Dorchester vnto Winchester, and thenceforth was all Deuon and Cornewall vnder the Bishop of Winchester, for and about fiftie yeares, vntill the time of king *Ine*. In whose time about the yeare of our Lord 705. there was a synod or a prouinciall councell, holden vnder *Brithewaldus* Archbishop of Canturburie, in which it was ordeined, that the Bishoprike of Winchester, should be diuided into two Bishoprikes or diocesses: that is Winchester, and Shereborne, and then vnder the Bishop of Shereborne, and in his Diocesse was Deuon and Cornewall, and so thenceforth did this constitution hold and continue about two hundred yeares, vntill the time of king *Edward* the elder, the sonne of king *Alfred*, who making a progresse through out his kingdome of Westsex, came to this citie of Excester, and found both it, and the whole countrie cleane destituted of Bishop or preacher, and so had beene for sundrie yeares, wherevpon by the aduise of *Pleymundus* Archbishop of Canturburie, a synod or a prouinciall councell was kept in Westsex: and therein it was ordeined and concluded, that in euerie particular prouince or shiere, within Westsex, there should be a particular Bishop: and then one Bishop was appointed for Deuonthire, and an other for Cornewall. *Werstanus* was consecrated Bishop of Deuon, and his see was then at Tawton, now named Bishops Tawton, and from thence shortly after remooued to Kirtton, and after manie yeares, from thence to Excester. *Hesstanus* was consecrated Bishop of Cornewall, and his see was first at *S. Petrokes* in Bodmin, and after remooued vnto *S. Germines*, and at length was vnited vnto Crediton, and in the end both were remooued vnto Excester. And for as much as I haue not yet found anie thing of the Bishops of Cornewall, worthie memorie, I will deale

and



and set downe onelie the Catalog of the Bishops of Deuon and of Excester, and what I find doone by them or in their time worthie the obseruation. I know that for want of knowledge in me, there be manie imperfections herein. But among so manie wise godlie and learned men, as you are, I hope that some one good man or other, and hauing accesse vnto your euidences and records, will either reforme what they find amisse, or impart it vnto me, that I may so doo it, when time and opportunitie shall serue therevnto. And thus much concerning the first receiuing of the true and christian religion, and appointing of Bishops in this prouince of Deuon. And for as much as this pamphlet doone and written a fewe yeares past, came vpon some occasion to my hands, to be reuiued at this present time; being the end of the yeare past, and the beginning of the new now come, in which it hath beene an old vsage and custome among good freends, and especiallie of the yonger to their elders, and of the inferiour to their superiours, to offer some small present, ech one to the other, congratulating thereby the good successe of the yeare past, and wishing the like to come, and considering also, that you which doo labour in the word and in doctrine, doo dailie beget vs through the Gospell in Christ Iesus, and are his ministers to our saluation, and therefore the more worthie of double honour; and for as much as I my selfe am (his name be praised) by these meanes made partaker of his heauenlie blessings, and dailie confirmed, doo thinke my selfe most bounden to be thankfull and gratefull vnto you all herein. Wherefore these my trauels, so much as concerne your church, I thought it good, by waie of a strene, to offer and present vnto you, praieng you, that though it be somewhat imperfect, yet such as it is you will accept and take in good part, not respecting the slendernes of the thing offered, but the good will and beneuolence of the offerer. And herewith also I am to praie you to call to your remembrance, that as the old yeare is past, and the new is come; so that euerie one doo cast awaie the old man, which is corrupt, and put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousnes and holines, and that you be renewed in knowledge after the image of God, which created vs, and to cast awaie the workes of darkenes, and put on the armor of light, walking honestlie as in the daie time, not biting nor deuouring one the other, least we be consumed one with another; but walke in loue, and peace, long suffering, gentlenes, goodnes, faith, meekenes, and temperance, which are the fruits of the spirit, crucifieng the flesh and the affections and lusts thereof, and thus hauing purged awaie the old leauen, and being freed from sinne, and made the seruants of God, and prepared to good works through Christ,

you maie haue your fruites in holines, and in the end to enter into the

ioie of our Lord, and life euerlasting. And thus commending

you vnto the eternall and euerliuing God in Christ Ie-

sus, I doo most durifullie take my leaue. Exon

the last of the old yeare, and the be-

ginning of the new. 1583.

Yours in the Lord Iesus,

John Holker.

B. J.

The

# The antiquitie, foundation, and building of the Cathedrall Church, of S. Peters, in the Citie of Excester.



After that false and superstitious religion, was crept and receiued into the Church of God: and the people growen verie deuout therein, they began the erecting and building of religious houses, and monasteries, in euerie place: (which after the maner of the most part of Christendome) as it was done vniuersallie within this realme, so also there wanted not the like in this citie after the rate and portion thereof. For this humoz being now entered, and the people nussed therein, so proue and forward was ech man to continue the thing begun and receiued: that the moze busie, forward, and liberal he was therein, the better man he was reposed, and taken to be. There were therefore in this citie from time to time, as oportunitie serued, diuers religious houses, and monasteries, founded and erected: whereof appeareth that thre were within the lye, circuite, and place, which is now called the close of S. Peters: and which, in tyme, decrewed and were vnited into one. The first was a house of women, called Moniales or Nunnes, which is now the calenderhate and the Deanes house of the Cathedrall Church. The other was of monks, and supposed to be builded about the yere of the Lord 868. by King Etheldred, the third sonne of King Ethelmophus: and these two were by Bishop Leophricus added and vnited to the Cathedrall Church. The third was a house of Monks of the order of S. Bener, and founded by R. Athelstane, Anno 932. And this is that part of the Cathedrall Church, now called the Ladie chapel. For the said King, having driuen out of this citie, the Brytaines (who then dwelled therein) and minding to make a full conquest of them, and of such as then inhabited in Denon or in Cornwall followed and pursued them, whom in the end he conquered; and hauing exploited his wit, and gotten the victorie, returned to this citie, and here staing and sojourning for a tyme, did reedifie the citie, as also yelding himselfe thankfull to God for his good successe, builded the said monasterie for Monks, for thus is it so written of him, *Hanc urbem primus Rex Athelstanus in possessionem Anglorum effugatis Brytonibus redactam, muribus munivit, et muro ex quadratis lapidibus cinxit: ac antiquitus vocatum Munkeson, nunc Exeter vocari voluit: ac ibi sedem mansum quoddam dedit ad fundandum monasterium pro monachis deo et sancto Petro famulantibus.* And besides the great charges he was at, in the building, he gaue also sufficient lands & reuenues for their lining, whereof Morkhous and Thresaurers beare, be yet remaining & are appertaining to the treasurer of the said Church. But after the time of R. Athelstane, the Danes with great hostilitie, & crueltie hauing ouerrunne this land, this citie and Church was much infected and troubled, for with no lesse crueltie, did the Danes pursue the English men, and Saxons, than did the Saxons befoze pursue the Brytaines. And then the Monks not able to indure the same, fled and forsooke their house, seeking places of refuge, and better safetie: and so was this monasterie left destitute, and forsaken for sundrie yeaeres, vntill the time of R. Edgar, for he making a pro-  
greffe



## The building of the Cathedrall Church

gresse into those west parts, to visit his father in lawe Ordogarus (whose daughter he had married) then Earle of Devon, and founder of the abbey of Taunestocke, came to this citie, Anno, 986. and he pittienng the distressed state of the said Church, caused the Monks to be sought out, and to be assembled together; whom he then restored to their house and liuelihoods, and appointed Sydemannus (who afterwards was Bishop) to be their Abbat.

And thenceforth, they continued together (although in great troubles) untill the time of K. Swanus the Dane, for he with a great troupe and armie of his Danes, came to this citie, anno, 1019. who besieged it, and at length, having taken the same, he spoiled, destroyed, and burnt, both citie, and monasterie, but yet shortly after it was againe restored, for K. Canutus or Canarus, being aduertised of the great cruelties done by his father Swanus, did at the request of one of his dukes named Acheldredus, make restitution unto Athelwoldus then Abbat, both of lands, livings, and priuiledges, as appereth by his chapter dated, anno, 1019.

After this, nere about xxx. yeares, K. Edward the confessor came to the citie, and he by the aduise and counsell of Leophricus, then Bishop of Crediton and sometimes Lord Chancellor of England, and of the priue Counsell, with the said King; partlie for the better safetie of the Bishop, and his successors, and partlie to provide a more apt place for the Monks, did remove the Bishops see, from Crediton to this citie, and sent the Monks to westminster; and did himselfe in his owne person, together with Quene Edeth his wife, place and install Bishop Leophricus in possession of his new Church and see. The Bishop then thus removed from the old, and placed in the new, indoweth his new see and Church, with the lands, and liuelihoods of his former Church, and to make his sanctuarie to his mind, pullerh downe the two monasteries, were aduising; the one of Nunnes, the other of Monks, and addeth them to his owne Church: and then having thus brought his desire to effect, maketh ordinances, lawes, and orders, for the good government of his Church and cleargie.

After Leophricus death, his successors following his example did euerie of them, for the most part, procure the augmentation & increase of their church, some in liuelihoods, some in liberties, and priuiledges, and some in buildings, and some in one thing or other.

William Warewest, the third Bishop after the conquest, being sometimes chapleine to the conqueror, and to William and Henrie his sonnes, obtained of the conqueror such grace and fauour, that he gave to this Church; Olinton, Brampton, and S. Steeuens in Excester, which his gift, his foresaied two sonnes by their charters did also confirme: and then the said Bishop, hauing the ordering and distribution thereof, giueth Olinton to the regular Canons, for whom he had created a monasterie there, and where he himselfe shortly after, leauing his Bishopricke became a Canon; Brampton was reserved to the Cathedrall Church, and afterwards was annexed to the Deanerie, but S. Steeuens, with the see to the same, he reserved to himselfe, and to his successors, whereby they are Barrons and Lords in the parliament.

Anno 1112 the said Bishop Warewest began to enlarge his Cathedrall Church, which at that time was no bigger than that part which is now the Latie chappell, and laid the foundation, of that which is now the choyse or quier.

Anno 1235. or there about; William Brewer Bishop, established and made a  
Deane

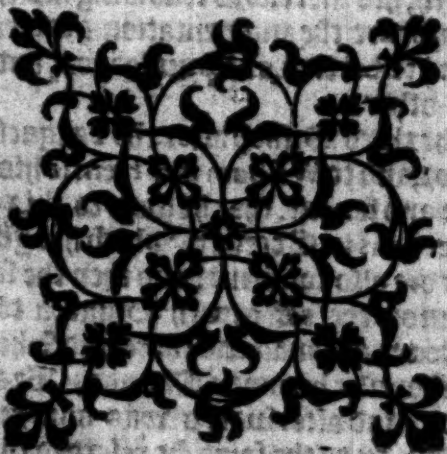
Deane's chapter of xiiij. prebendaries: for the Deane (whom he then appointed, and whose name was Serlo) and for his successors, he appropriated & gave Brampton, and Coliton Rameleigh, for the prebendaries he purchased lands, allotting to euerie of them, the like portion of foure pound, by the yeere.

Anno 1284. Peter Quinill Bishop, finding the chancell of his Church to be builded and finished to his hands, beginneth and foundeth the lower part, or bodie of his church, from the quere westwards; he also appointed a chanter, and a subdeane in the Church, to the one he impropriated Dainton, and Chudleigh, and to the other, the personage of Eglosmale in Cornewall, he also impropriated the personage of St. Newlin in Cornewall, & of the Stoke-gabrell in Devon, to the Chancellor of the Church for reading of a Diuinitie lecture in his Cathedrall Church.

Anno 1340. Iohn Grandisson Bishop, did increase the length of his Church, from the foote, westwards; he vaulted the roose of the whole Church, and fullie ended and absolved the same; and albeit, from the time of B. Achelstan, the first founder, anno 932, untill the death of this Grandisson, which was anno 1369. there were 437. yeeres distant, and in the meane time, this Church builded by sundrie and diuerse men, yet so vniformelie the same is compact, as though it were builded at one instant.

Anno 1456. George Neuill then Bishop of this Church, but shortly after Archbishop of Yorke, began to build the chapter house, which was ended, finished, and absolved, by his next successor, Bishop Edmond Lacie, but the cloister, and librarie, was builded by the Deane and chapter.

And thus much concerning the first foundation and building of this Church, and the full ending of the same, and now to the Catalog of the Bishops, and of so many as I can find, who haue borne particular Bishops in this prouince of Devon, sithens the time of Edward the elder, the sonne of A. Alfred.





# A Catalog of the Bishops of Excester.

**W**Erstanus, at a prouinciall synod, holden in west sex, anno. 905. was consecrated Bishop of Deuon, and had his sea at Bishops Tawton: and in the yeare following 906. he died and was buried in his owne church. 1

**P**Vtta, after the death of Werstanus, was elected and consecrated Bishop, and had his sea at Tawton, and taking his iourneie towards Crediton, to see and visit the king (or as some saie, Vffa the kings lieutenant) was by the said Vffas men slaine, and then vpon his death the sea was remoued to Crediton. 2

**E**Adulphus, brother to Alpfius duke of Deuon, and Cornewall, and founder of Launceston, was consecrated Bishop of Deuon, but installed at Crediton, where he had his sea, and continued Bishop rty. yeares, and then dieng about the yeare 932. he was buried in his owne church. 3

**E**thelgarus, anno. 932. succeded Eadulphus. and in his time king Achelstane subdued the Cornish people, reedified this citie, and compassed the same with a stone wall: he founded the monastrie of S. Peters, for monkes of S. Benets order. This Ethelgarus after he had bene Bishop ten yeares died, and was buried in his owne church. 4

**A**lgarus, anno. 942. after Ethelgarus was constituted and installed Bishop at Crediton, and hauing bene Bishop about ten yeares, died and was buried in his owne church. 5

**A**lfwoldus, as Mathew of Westminster writeth, was next Bishop after Algarus, and consecrated by the aduise of Dunstane, anno 952. In this time Odogarus Earle of Denon, and father in lawe to king Edger, builded the Abbie of Taunestoke, and king Edgar calleth home all the Monkes of S. Peters which were dispersed, and without anie Abbat, and made Sydemannus Abbot, who was afterwards Bishop. This Alfwoldus after sixtene yeares that he was consecrated, died and was buried in his owne church. 6

**A**lwolfus, as Dicetus affirmeth, was consecrated Bishop, anno 969. and after nine yeares died, and was buried in his owne church. 7

- 8 **S**Ydemannus, of an Abbat was made a Bishop, anno. 978. in this mans time the Danes ouerranne and spoiled the whole countries of Deuon and Cornewall, burned the towne of Bodmen, and the cathedrall church of S. Petrokes, with the Bishops house. Where, vpon the Bishops sea was remoued from thence to S. Germans, where the same continued vntill the remouing and building thereof vnto Crediton. Sydemannus in the twelſe yeare after his consecration died, and was buried at Crediton in his owne church. 990.
- 9 **A**Lphredus, whom Dicetus calleth Alfricus Abbat of Palmesburie, was consecrated Bishop, and installed at Crediton, he was taken for a learned man, because he wrote two booke, the one intituled *De rebus caenobij suis*, and the other *De rerum naturis*. In this Bishops time, king Etheldred endowed the Bishopricke of S. Germanes, with lands, liberties and priuiledges. The Danes made a fresh inuasion, in and vpon all Deuon and Cornewall, burned and spoiled the Abbie of Ordolphus at Lauestoke: they besieged Exceſter, and being remoued from thence, were fought withall at Pimneho, about three miles from the citie, and ouerthrowne. Alphredus, after he had bene Bishop about nine yeares, died anno. 999. and was buried in his owne church.
- 10 **A**Lwolfus, as Dicetus writeth, was the next Bishop. In his time Sweno king of Denmarke, by intisement of one Hew, then Earle of Deuon, came with a great hoste and besieged the citie of Exceſter, toke it and burned it, and with great crueltie vsed the people, vntill in the end Almarus then Earle of Deuon, and the gentlemen did yeld and submit themselves, and so obtained peace. This Alwolfus about the fiftieth yeare of his Bishopricke, anno. 1014. died, and was buried in his owne church.
- 11 **A**Lnoldus, by the report of the Archdeacon of London, succeeded Alwolfus, and was installed at Crediton. In this mans time king Canutus gaue to Adhelwode Abbat of S. Peters of this citie, great gifts and sundrie priuiledges, in recompense of his fathers great iniuries. Arnoldus in the fiftieth yeare of his Bishopricke 1030. died, and was buried in his owne church.
- 12 **L**Euigus or Leuingus, Abbat of Taunſtoke, and nephew to Brythewaldus Bishop of Cornewall, was chosen the next Bishop, and according to the orders then vsed, consecrated and installed. He was in great fauour and credit with king Canutus, vpon whom



## Bishops of Excester.

whome he attended in pilgrimage vnto Rome. And after his vncke the Bishop of S. Germans being dead, obtained of the king that the Bishops sea was removed from S. Germanes vnto Crediton, and both were thereby reduced and vnted into one Bishoprike, and so hath ever sithence continued; he was after the death of Brythegus Bishop of Worcester, removed to that church, and there died and was buried as some suppose; but some affirme, that in the time of Hardicamitus the king, at the accusation of Alfredus then Archbishop of Yorke, for that he should be consenting to the death of Alfredus the sonne of Echeldred, that he should be deposed of his Bishoprike there, and so did returne vnto Taunestoke, where he died: but Dicetus affirmeth that he purged himselfe of this crime, and by that meanes was restored both to the fauour of the king and to his Bishoprike againe, and died Bishop of Worcester. It is recorded that he was Bishop of Crediton fiftene yeares.

**L**Eofricus, a man descended of the blood and line of Brutus, but brought vp in the land of Lothoringia or Loreine, was so well commended for his nobilitie, wisdome and learning, that king Edward the confessor had him in great fauour, and made him first one of his priue Councell; and then Lord Chamberlaine of all England: and lastlie the Bishoprike of this prouince being void, he was made, consecrated, and installed, Bishop of the same. By him and by his meanes, the Bishops sea was removed from Crediton, to this citie of Excester, for at his request, king Edward together with Quene Edith his wife, came to Excester, and removing the monks from hence to Westminster, did also remove the Bishops sea from Crediton to his citie, and did put the Bishop in the possession: for he conducting the Bishop on the right hand, and the Quene on the left hand, brought him to the high altar of his new church, and there placed him in a seat appointed for him. He suppressed sundrie houses or cels of religion within his sanctuarie, and appropriated and vnted them to his owne church, as also by the good liberalitie of the king, obtained great reuenues, possessions, priuiledges, and liberties, to be giuen vnto the church. In this mans time, William Duke of Normandie, made a conquest of this whole realme, as also in the yeare 1068. besieged this citie of Excester, which after by composition he restored to his former estate againe. Also in his time Richard de Brion, a noble man of Normandie, the sonne of Baldwin of Brion, and of Albred the neece to the conqueror, was made Baron of Okehampton, warden of the castell of Excester, and Vicount of

13

c.ij.

Deuon.

## A Catalog of the

**Denon**. This Leofricus after that he had well and worthilie ruled his church and Diocesse, by the space of xxliij. yeares, he ended his daies in peace, and died anno 1073. and was buried in the cemitorie or churchyard of his owne church, vnder a simple and a broken Marble Stone, which place by the sithens enlarging of his church, is now within the south tower of the same, where of late, anno 1568. a new monument was erected in the memoire of so good, worthie, and noble a personage, by the industrie of the wyter hereof, but at the charges of the Deane and chapter.

14 **O**Sbertus or Osbernus, a Normaine bozne, and brother to an Earle named William, was preferred to this Bishoprike, and in the yeare 1074. was consecrated and installed to the same. Polydorus writeth, that one Galfrid who ioined with Odo Earle of Kent and Bishop of Boion, against William Rufus, should be Bishop of Eron: but it was not nor could not so be. In this mans time William the conqueror, and William Rufus his sonne died. This Osbertus or Osbernus, after he had bene Bishop thirtie yeares, was blind, and died, and lieth buried in his owne church.

15 **W**illiam VVarewest, a Normaine bozne, and chaplaine both to the conqueror and his two sonnes, William and Henrie, was a verie graue and a wise man, and for the same was preferred by Henrie the king to this Bishoprike, anno 1107. and was consecrated by Anselmus Archbishop of Canturburie, in the moneth of August, the same yeare. He first began to enlarge his church, which at that time was no bigger than that which is now called the Ladie chappell. He founded and builded the monasterie of Wlimgton, and placed therein regular Canons: in his latter daies he wared and became blind; and yet notwithstanding for his wisedome the king sent him in embassage vnto Pope Paschalis the second, wherein he so wisselie dealed, and so discretly behaued himselfe in his message, that he made a reconciliation betweene the Pope and the king, and returned with great praise and commendation. Not long after his returne, and hauing small ioie of the world, he gaue ouer his Bishoprike, and became one of the religious canons in his owne house of Wlimgton, where he died and was buried, he was Bishop about twentie yeares.

16 **R**obert Chichester, Deane of Sarisburie, was consecrated Bishop vnder Anselmus Archbishop of Canturburie, anno. 1128. and the xxvij. yeare of king Henrie the first, he was a Gentleman



man bozne, and therefore esteemed for his zeale in religion, wherein he was verie deuout according to those daies, and thinking his laboures to be best employed that waie, did oftentimes go in pilgrimage, sometime to Rome, sometime to one place, sometime to an other; and euer he would bring with him some one relique or other. He was a liberall contributoꝛ to the buildings of his church. In his time was founded and builded the Monasterie of S. Stephens in Launceston, and furthered by Reynold Earle of Cornwall, but vnto it this Bishop was an aduersarie; not for misliking the worke, but for feare of an intrusion vpon his liberties. Likewise at this time was builded the Priorie of S. Nicholas in Excester, by the Abbat of Battell, vnto which Abbie, this Priorie was a cell. In this mans time also, king Henrie made William Rideuerse a Poymaine, and his kinsman Earle of Denon; and therewith the Lordship of Twisfordstone, and the honoꝛ of Blimpton, together with the third pennie of his revenues in Denon, which in the whole was then xxx. marks, whereof this Earle had ten. Also in this mans time, king Henrie died, and king Stephen entered, and tooke vpon him the crowne, whereof ensued great warres. This Bishop after that he had occupied the place xxi. yeares, died and was buried in his owne church. But the monks of Westminster writeth that he should be Bishop xxvi. yeares, and died in the yeare 1155. but he neuer sawe the records of this church which are to the contrarie.

**R**obert VVarewest, nephew to William the Bishop of this church, Deane of Sarisburie, was consecrated Bishop by Theobaldus Archbishop of Canturburie, anno 1150. he nothing degenerate from the steps of his predecessors, but was altogether of the same bent and disposition. In his time king Stephen died, and Henrie the second was crowned king. This Robert after that he had occupied this see nine yeares or there about, died and was buried at Blimpton by his uncle.

**B**artholomeus Iscanus, otherwise Bartholomew of Excester was consecrated Bishop of Excester vnder Theobaldus Archbishop of Canturburie, anno. 1159. he was called Iscanus of Isca, which is one of the ancientest names of this citie. He was a meane citizens sonne, but being verie apt vnto learning, his parents and friends kept him to schole, and he so well profited therein, that he came and proved to be a verie well learned man, and being Bishop he wrote sundrie bookes, as of Predestination, Freewill, Penance,

Penence, and others: of all men he could not bꝛoke noꝛ fauoꝛ Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canturburie, foꝛ his contempt and disobedience against the king, foꝛ the which he shapeliē impꝛoued, rebuked, and inueighed against him openlie, in the parliament house holden at Northampton; and with such effectuell reasons and pithie arguments, he did so temper the same, that the whole parliament relied vnto his iudgement and opinion herein, against Thomas Becket. And after his death, such was the grauitie, modestie, and wisdom of the man, that he was speciallie chosen to be Embassadoꝛ foꝛ the king vnto Pope Alexander the thirde, and so wiselie and with such discretion vsed the same, that notwithstanding his cause and message had manie aduersaries, yet he reconciled the Pope, and the king, obtained the good will and fauour of the Pope, and brought his message to good effect. This Bishop was in great familiaritie and acquaintance with Baldwin of Excester his countreiman, now Archbishop of Canturburie, who was a poꝛe mans sonne in this citie; but foꝛ his learning aduanced to this estate. In this Bishops time, about the yeare of our Lord 1168. William Fytzralph a citizen of this citie, founded a cell foꝛ monks within this citie, and dedicated the same to S. Alexius, which not long after was vnited to S. Johns within the East gate of the same citie. In his time also Reynold of Courtney, a nobleman of Normandie, the sonne of Elorus the sonne of Lewes, named Lewes le grosse, king of Fraunce, came into this land, and married Hawise, daughter and heire to Maud the daughter and heire to Adelis, sister and heire to Richard de Briouo the first, Vicecount of Deuon, and in hir right was Vicecount of Deuon. This Bartholomew after he had bene Bishop about xiiij. yeares, anno. 1184. died, but where he died and where he was buried, it dooth not appeare. In this Bishops time about the yeare 1170. one Iohannes Corinienles a Cornish man borne, was a famous learned diuine, he was a Student at Rome and other places in Italie, and by that meanes grue into great acquaintance with Pope Alexander the thirde, he wrote diuers bookes, and namelie one *De incarnatione Christi*, against Peter Lombard, who affirmed, *Quod Christus secundum quod homo est, aliquid non est*; and this he dedicated to Pope Alexander.

19. John, the Chaunter of the cathedꝛall church of this citie, was consecrated and installed Bishop of this church, anno. 1184. he was well reported foꝛ his liberalitie, in continuing the buildings of this church, wherein he was nothing inferiour to his pꝛedecessoꝛs. In his time



etime king Henrie Fytzemprie died, and he himselfe hauing bene Bishop about ftre yeares, died anno. 1191.

**H**enrie Marshall, Archdeacon of Stafford, the brother to Walter the Earle Marshall of England, was consecrated Bishop by Hubert, Archbishop of Canturburie, anno. 1191. he finished the building of his church, according to the plat and foundation which his predecessors had laied, and that done, he purchased the patronage and Lordship of Woodburie of one Albemarle, which he gaue and impropriated vnto the vicars corall of his church. In this mans time anno. 1201. one Simon Thurnaius, a Cornish man borne, brought vp in learning, did by diligence and studie so prosper therein, that he became excellent in all the liberall sciences, and in his daies none thought to be like him: he left Drenford, where he had bene a student, and went to Paris, and there became a priest, and studied diuinitie, and therein became so excellent and of so deepe a iudgement, that he was made cheefe of the Sorbonistes; at length he became so proud of his learning, and glozified so much therein, that he would be singular, and thought himselfe to be another Aristotle, and so much he was therein blinded, and wared so farre in loue with Aristotle, that he preferred him befoze Moses and Christ. And behold Gods iust iudgement, for suddenlie his memorie failed him, and he wared so forgetfull, that he could neither call to remembrance anie thing that he had done, neither could he discerne, read or know a letter of the booke. This Henrie, after that he had spent and liued twelue yeares in his Bishoprike, he died, and lieth buried in the North side of the Chauncell of his church, in a verie faire tombe of Marble, anno. 1206.

**S**imon de Apulia, anno. 1206. was installed Bishop of this sea, of him there remaineth no memorie at all. In his time were famous Ioseph Iscanius, and Alexander Neckam; the one was verie well learned in the Latine and Graeke tong, and in the liberall sciences; the other was Prior of S. Nicholas, and was an vniuersall man, being a profound philosopher, an eloquent orator, a pleasant Poet, and a deepe diuine. In this Bishops time, the doctrine of eleuation, adozation, reseruation, and praieng for the dead, being established by Pope Honorius the third, the parish churches within this citie were limitted, anno. 1222. In this mans time, anno. 1213. one Iohannes Deuonius, so surnamed bicause he was borne in Denon, being well bent to good studies, was much commended for his learning

ning and modestie . He was familiar and of great acquaintance with Baldwin Bishop of Canturburie, and being made Abbat of Forde, was in such fauour with king Iohn, that he chose him to be his confessor and chapline, he was a writer, and compiled diuers booke which were then accounted of. Being dead he was buried in his Abbie, the people much lamenting the want of so good a man. This Bishop hauing spent xliij. yeares, died anno. 1224. and was buried in his owne church.

22

**W**illiam Brewer, verie shortly after the death of the foresaid Simon, was elected Bishop, and consecrated by Stephan Langton, Archbishop of Canturburie, anno. 1224. he was borne and descended of a noble house and parentage, being brother to Sir William Brewer knight, the husband of the eldest daughter and one of the heires to William de Verona, Earle of Deuon; and who also was founder of the Abbets of Tor and of Hartland, and of other Monasteries. This Bishop so wiselie and so discretlie behaued himselfe, that he was had in great reputation among all men, and in speciall fauour with the king: for king Henrie, hauing giuen his sister Ladie Isabell, to wife vnto Frederike the emperor, did commend and betake hir to this Bishop, to be conueighed and conducted to the emperor. And such was the fame and good report spread of him, that as he passed through the countries, they were from place to place receiued with great honour, and being come to the citie of Coleine, the Archbishop there did not onelie verie honourable receiue and entertaine them, but also accompanied them vnto the citie of Wormes, where the marriage was solemnized. When this Bishop had seene the marriage, & althings performed, he took his leaue and was dismissed with great presents, and honourable accompanied homewards by the Archbishop and others. At his returne he was iustlie receiued of all the noblemen about the king, and most thankfullie by the king himselfe, and whom the king vled as his speciall and most trustie counsellor in all his weightie causes. This Bishop being come home to his owne house, and minding as his predecessors had done, to leaue some good memorie behind him, he made a Deane, and constituted xliij. prebendaries within his church, to the one he impropriated Brampton, & Coliton Rawley: for the others he purchased so much land, as out whereof he assigned to euery prebendarie iij. pound by the yeare, & of these he ordeined his chapter. Also in this mans time, anno 1240. Gilbert Long, and Robert his brother, citizens of this citie, builded and founded the hospitall of S. Johns,



Johns, within the East gate of this citie, for the sustentance of certaine poore folke, called after wards the poore children of S. Johns, & gave all their lands, & tenements to the same, which was sufficient. The yeare following the cell of S. Alexis was removed and adjoined to S. Johns, and then the founders being dead, the charge and government of that house was by those founders commended to the Mayor of this citie, and they themselves were founders & patrones thereof. Anno 1244. there grew a contention, concerning the poore. laye, sicke people of the Magdalen without the south gate of this citie, whose maner and blage was then, with a clappish upon euerie market daie, to resort and come to the markets, and there to beg euerie mans deuotion: but by reason of their sicknesse, which was lothsome and abhorred, the peoples deuotion wared short and scant against them, as also euerie man murmured against their going and begging at large, whereupon the matter being brought into question, betwene the Bishop and this citie, it was concluded, that a permutation should be made, and that therefore, the Bishops should be patrones, and haue the government of S. Johns, and the Mayor and his successors to be gardians and founders of the hospitall of the Magdalen, with a promise that the proctor of the Magdalen, should on one daie in euerie moneth, come with his bor to S. Peters Church, at the time of service; and there receiue and gather the deuotion of the canons, which is used at these presents. This poore house remaineth still, but the other for want of good friends, was suppressed and dissolved. This Bishop after that he had continued in his Church, about xix. yeares he died, anno 1244. and lieth buried in the middle of his owne Church, vnder a plaine Marble stone.

**R**ichard Blondie, 1245. was consecrated and installed: Bishop Bonifacius, then being Archbishop of Cantuarbie. This Richard was a man of a mild spirit, but verie stout against such as in his time, did offer anye iniurie to the church, and in his old yeares being but a weake man, he was much carried and ruled by such as were his officers, and about him; who taking the oportunitie of the time, used all the meanes they might, to enrich themselves, his cheefest officers were one Lodesewell his chancellor, Sutton his register, Fitzherbert his officiall, and Ernestow the keeper of his seale. These with other of the chiefe seruants of the household, compacted amongst themselves, that whilst the Bishop was yet liuing, who then lay sicke and verie weake in his bed, to make and conuate

unto themselves, conueiances of such liuelihoods, as then late in the  
Bishops disposition; and accordinglye made out aduoucons and o-  
ther such conueiances, as to them seemed best, all which were forth-  
with sealed and deliuered, according to the orders among them con-  
cluded, but these their subtil dealinges, were not so closelie conuied,  
but that the next Bishop following, houlted and found the same  
out, and did not onelie reuerse all their doings, but also did excom-  
municate them, and who were not absolved untill they had done  
their penance for the same. Which was done at S. Peters Church,  
openlie vpon Palme sundaie, being the xix, of March, 1267. This  
Bishop Richard in the twelue yeare of his Bishoprike died, and was  
buried in his owne Church.

24

**W**alter Bronescome, Archdeacon of Surreie, was  
consecrated Bishop of Canturburie, vpon passion sundaie,  
anno 1286 vnder Bonifacius, then Archbishop, he was borne in this  
citie of Cron, and was the sonne of poore parents, but he being of a  
verie towardnesse and good disposition, and verie apt to learning,  
they partlie of themselves, and partlie by helpe of their friends, did  
put him to schole, and kept him to his booke: wherein he proued and  
prospered so well, that he was verie well learned. At the time of his  
election, he was no priest, and therefore not capeable of anie such  
dignitie, but immediatlie he took that order vpon him, and forth-  
with was consecrated Bishop, all which being done within fiftene  
daies, it was counted as for a miracle, namelie, that he should be e-  
lected Bishop, then made priest, and at last to be consecrated within  
that space. For so manie dignities as they termed it, to be cast vpon  
one man in so short a time, had not bene lightlie seene. He founde  
ded the colledge of Glascin, in Berin in Cornewall, and endowded  
the same with faire possessions and reuenewes. He purchased the  
the Barton of Kokesdone, and Clift; and gaue it to the hospitall of  
S. Iohns, within the Eastgate of the citie of Excester. He institut-  
ed in his owne Church, the feast called Gabrils feast; and gaue a  
peece of land for the maintenance thereof, he also did by a policie, pur-  
chase the Lordship and house of Clift Sachisfield, and by a deuise did  
inlarge the Barton thereof, by gaining of Cornish wood, from his  
Deane and chapter: and builded then a verie faire and a sumptu-  
ous house, and called it Bishops Clift, which he left to his successors.  
Likewise he got the patronage of Clift Fomeson, now called Sow-  
ton, and annexed the same to his new Lordship, which as it was said  
was in this order. He had a frier to be his chapline and confessor,  
which



which died in his said house of Clift, and should haue béene buried at the parish church of Faringdon, bicause the said house was and is in that parish: but bicause the parish church was somewhat farre of, the waies foule, and the weather rainie, or for some other causes: the Bishop willed and commanded the corps to be carried to the parish church of Solton, then called Clift Fomeson, which is verie néere, and bozdereth vpon the Bishops Lordship: the two parishes there being diuided by a little lake called Clift. At this time one Fomeson a Gentleman, was Lord and patron of Clift Fomeson, and he being aduertised of such a buriall towards in his parish, and a leech wate to be made ouer his land, without his leaue or consent required therein; calleth his tenants together, and goeth to the bridge ouer the lake, betwéene the Bishops land and his, and there méeteth the Bishops men, bzinging the said corps, and forbiddeth them to come ouer the water. But the Bishops men nothing regarding the same, doe presse forthwards to come ouer the water: and the others doe withstand and fall at strife about the matter; so long, that in the end my Lords Frier is fallen into the water. The Bishop taketh this matter in such gréepe, that a holie Frier, a religious man, and his owne chaplaine and confessor, should so vnreuerentlie be cast into the water, that he falleth out with the Gentleman, and vpon what occasion I know not, he sueth him in the lawe, and so bereth and tormenteth him, that in the end he was faine to yéeld himselfe to the Bishops deuotion, and seeketh all waies he could to currie the Bishops good will, which he could not obtaine, vntill for his redemption, he had giuen and surrendred vp his patronage of Solton, with a peece of land, all which the said Bishop annereth to his new Lordship. Thus by policie he purchased the manor of Bishops Clift, by a deuise gaineth Cornish wood, and by power wresteth the patronage of Solton. This Bishop after he had occupied this sea about xxiiij. yeares, died and was buried in his owne church, in a sumptuous tombe of Alabaster.

**P**ETER Quiuill, anno. 1281. was consecrated Bishop of this church, vnder Iohn Archbishop of Canturburie. He first instituted a Chaunter and a Subdeane in his church. To the one he impropriated Painton and Chidleigh, & to the other the rectorie of Eglosehale in Cornewall, he was a liberall and a speciall benefactor to the hospitall of S. Iohns in Excester, as well in goods as in liuelihoods; he first began to enlarge and increase his church from the chauncell downewards, and laid the foundation thereof. In his time anno.

1285. Walter Lichelade the first Chaunter, was slaine in a morning as he came from the morning service, then called the Mattines, which was then wont to be said shortly after midnight. Upon which occasion the king came vnto this citie, and kept his christmas in the same, and therevpon a composition was made betweene the Bishop and the citie, for inclosing of the churchyard, and building of certeine gates there, as appereth by the said composition, bearing date in *Festo annunciationis beate Mariae* 1286. The king at the sute of the Earle of Hereford, who at his being here, was lodged in the house of the Grate Friers, which then was nere the house of S. Nicholas, obtained of the Bishop, that they should be remoued from thence to a more wholesome place, which was to the place without Southgate; where of after the kings departure grew some controuersie, bicause the Bishop refused to performe his promise made to the king. This man also impropriated the parish of S. Newleine, and the parish of Stoke Gabriel, and vniited the same to the office of the Chauncello; of the Cathed;all church, and vnder condition that the said chauncello; should continuallie read a lecture within the said citie, of diuinitie, or of the decretalls: and if he should faile to do this, that then it might and should be lawfull to the Bishop to resigne the said parsonages impropriated, and to bestowe it at his pleasure, as appereth by the said grant, vnder the seales of the said Bishop, Deane and Chapter, dated the twelue of the Calends of Maie. 1283. This Bishop not long after, and in the eleuenth yeare of his Bishoprike, died being choaked in drinke of a sicrop, anno. 1292. and was buried in his owne church. The Franciscans or Grate Friers of this citie, imputed his death to his hard dealing with them: for whereas he had promised the king to prouide a conuenient place for them to build their house in, and had willed their warden, named Deoditus, to seeke out and make inquitie for the same: yet notwithstanding, when he had so done, bicause the same was in his fee, he did swarue from his said promise, and did utterlie denie to performe the same, by the persuation of one Peter Kenefeld, a Dominican or a blacke Frier, and confessor vnto the said Bishop: for he enuiling the good successe of the Franciscanes, persuadeth wth the Bishop, that in no wise he should permit them to enioie the place which they had gotten, nor to build therein, bicause it was within his fee; for saith he, as vnder colour of simplicitie, they creepe in to the hearts of the people, and hinder vs poore preachers from our gaires and livings: so be ye sure, that if the canons put wote within your liberties, they will  
in



In time so intrench upon the same, as that they will be cleane exempted from out of your libertie and iurisdiction. The Bishop being some perswaded and contented contrarie to his promise to yeeld thereunto, denieth the Franciscans; and vtterlie forbiddeth them to build or to do anie thing within his see or libertie. About two yeares after, the Bishop kept a great feast, upon the sandale next before Saint Francis daie, and among others was present with him one Walter Winborne, one of the kings chiefe iustices of the bench, and who was present when the Bishop at the request of the king, made promise to further and to helpe the Franciscans, and who in their behalfe, did now put the Bishop in mind thereof, and requested him to haue consideration both of his owne promise, and of their distresse. The Bishop mistaking these speeches, waxed somewhat warme and offended: and in open termes, did not onelie denie to yeeld heereunto, but wished himselfe to be choaked, what daie so euer he did consent or yeeld vnto it. It fortuned that the same weeke, and upon the daie of S. Francis Cue, the Bishop took a certeine sirop to drinke, and in too hastie swallowing thereof, his breath was stopped, and he forthwith died. The Franciscans hearing thereof, made no little about this matter, but blased it abroad, that S. Francis wrought this miracle vpon the Bishop, because he was so hard against them.

**T**homas Bitton, the yeare following was elected Bishop, and the see of Canturburie was void, he was consecrated by John Roman Archbishop of Poike, he left no memoriall of anie great things done by him, saying that he continued in the building of his church, as also was a fauourer of such learned men as were in his Dioces: in his time, namelie, Robert Plimton a regular Canon of Plumpton, and a professor of diuinitie, and who wrote two books, Walter of Eron a Franciscane, Frier of Carocus in Cornewall, who at the request of one Baldwin of Excester, wrote the hystorie of Guic of Warwike, William of Excester, Doctor of diuinitie, and warden of the Franciscan Friers in this citie, Godfrey, surnamed Cornewall, a subtill scholeman, and a reader of diuinitie sometimes in Paris. This Bishop after xiiij. yeares that he had occupied this see died, anno. 1306. and was buried in his owne church.

**W**alter Stapledon, anno. 1507. being elected Bishop of this citie, was consecrated, by Robert Wincelsfey, Archbishop of Canturburie, he descended of a most noble parentage, which ioined with his learning, wisdom, & politike head, did get him

great credit & fauour with the King, who had him not only one of his priuie counsell, but also made him Lord Treasurer of England. At his inthronization or installing, he kept a solemne obseruation. For being come first to the citie, immediatlie after his consecration, as soone as he came to the Castgate, he alighted from his horse, and went in on foote, all the streete being couered and laied with blacke cloth; he was led on both sides, with two men of worship, and Sir Hew Courtneie Knight, who claimed to be steward of his feast, went next before him. The feast it selfe was verie sumptuous, and liberall, a controuersie was betwene him and the said Sir Hew Courtneie, concerning his challenge, to be his steward, but it was compounded and ended. This Bishop as he grew and increased in wealth, so he was carefull in the well disposing of part thereof; for the increase of learning he builded & erected two houses in Oxford, the one named Stabledons inne, but sithens Excester colledge, the other Hartball, he was also a speciall benefactor vnto the hospitall of S. Johns in Excester; vnto the which, for the relieving of certeine poore children therein, he impropriated the rectorie or personage of Crnescome. In the controuersie betwene his maister King Edward the second, and Charles the French king, he was sent Embassadour, to the French king and ioined in commission with the Quene, for the treatie of a peace and reconciliation: which though it were obtained, yet he ioining with the Spensers, who fauoured not the Quene, he returned into England; leauing the Quene behind him. And whereas they practised what they could, to put enmitie betwene the King and hir; and to set hir besides the cushion, they themselves fell into the same snares, which they had laied for others. For not long after the Quene, by the helpe of the Earle of Penaulde, and of S. Iohn his brother, came into England with a great armie, whereof the King and the Spensers, being afraid, departed from London to Bristowe, leauing this Bishop at London, and made him custos of the same, who requiring the keyes of the gates of the citie, of the Mayor, the commoners took him and beheaded him, as also his brother Sir Richard Stapledon, in cheape side, and carried his bodie to his house without templebarre, and there buried it in a sand-hill; namelie, the xv. of October, anno 1329. But the Quene forgetting all discourtesies, and reuerencing his calling, commanded his corps to some more honourable buriall, whereupon the same was taken vp, and brought to this citie, and with great solemnitie, was buried in his owne church, vpon the 28.



of March; where his epitaph by the writer thereof is set. Thus after that he had bene Bishop about xx. yeares, he ended his daies.

**J**ames Barkeleie, vpon the xxvj. of March, anno. 1327. before the buriall of his predecessor in his owne Church, was consecrated Bishop of this citie, he descended of the noble house of the Lorde Barkeleie, and albeit he were reputed to be a verie godlie and a wise man, yet he had no time to yeld the triall thereof. For he died in the fourth moneth after his consecration, vpon the xxiij. of Iulie, anno, 1327. and was buried in his owne church as some saie, but some thinke he neuer came hither at all.

**J**ohn Grandesson, being in Italie, with Pope Iohn, the xxij. after the death of Iames Barkeleie; the King presented him vnto the Pope, who accepted the presentation, and consecrated him Bishop of this diocesse, the eight of October, anno 1327. he was borne and descended of the ancient house of the Grandessons, Dukes of Burgundie, his father was named Gilbert, the brother of Otho the great Lord Grandesson, which Gilbert comming into this land, was well interteined by the king and nobilitie: and had a good liking of the countrie, that by meanes of Henrie Earle of Lancaster, with whom he came into England, he married ladie Sibill, daughter and one of the heires to Iohn Tregos, Lord of the castle of Ewas, nere Hereford east, and by hir had issue five sonnes, and foure daughters; of which this Bishop was one, and was borne in the parish of Ashperton, in the diocesse of Hereford. He was from his childhood verie well affected to learning, and became a good scholar and a professor of Diuinitie, of which method he wrote two booke, the one intituled *Pontificales maiores*, & the other *Pontificales minores*. He was also verie graue, wise, and polittike, and thereby grewe into such credit with Pope Iohn the xxij. that he was not onelie of his priuie counsell, but also *Nuntius apostolice sedis*. And in all matters of weight, and importance, an embassadoe for him, to the emperoe, to the kings of Hispanie, of France, of England, and all other, the mightiest princes of Christendome, and being on a time sent on in an embassage to R. Edward the third, he did with such wisdom and grauitie behaue himselfe, that the king was rauished in loue with him; and did so tenderlie loue and fauour him, that he neuer ceased vntill he had procured him from the Pope, and then he gaue him the Archdeaconrie of Pottingham, and bestowed great linings vpon him. He made him one of his priuie counsell, and in the end

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preferred him to this Bishopricke. After this, there being some dis-  
 liking betwene Pope Clement the first, and the king, he for his ap-  
 proved wisdom was sent in an ambassage to the Pope, anno.  
 1343. for an intreatie of a peace, and an amitie betwene them to  
 be had; and with such wisdom he did his message, that he obtained  
 his purpose, and made a reconciliation. After his returne home to  
 his Bishopricke, he was altogether given in doing some good things,  
 he builded and founded the colledge of S. Marie Otrey, and endow-  
 ed the same with great and goodlie liabliehoods. He was a li-  
 berall benefactor to the Vicars Chozall of his owne church, as also to  
 the colledge of Glasney in Perrin; he builded the two last arches in  
 the West end of his church, vaulted the roose of all the church, and sub-  
 lie performed and ended the buildings of the same, and then inri-  
 ched his said church, with plate, ornaments, and great riches, he also  
 builded a verie faire house in his sanctuarie at Bishops Taington,  
 which he gaue and least full furnished vnto his successors, and did im-  
 propriate vnto the same the personage of Radwaie, to the end as he  
 setteth done in his testament, *Vt haberent locum unde caput suum*  
*reclinarent, si forte in manum regis eorum temporalia caperentur:* and  
 which his halfeing in the end came partlie to effect. For not onlie  
 the most part of the temporalities of this Bishopricke, but this new  
 builded house and impropriation are come to be the possessions and  
 inheritances of temporall men. This Bishop waxed old, and feeling  
 in himselfe a decaye of nature, made his last will and testament,  
 wherein he made such large and bounteous legacies to the Pope,  
 Emperour, King, Quene, Archbishop, Bishops, colledges, churches,  
 and to sundrie persons of high estates and callings, that a man  
 would maruell, considering his great and chargeable buildings  
 and works otherwise, how and by what meanes he could haue attai-  
 ned to such a masse of wealth and riches; but his wisdom and poli-  
 cie considered, it was easie. For first he sequestereth from himselfe  
 and out of his house the troop of manie men and horses, retaining  
 and keeping no more than to serue his reasonable estate, his diet  
 was frugall, his receipts great, his expenses no more than necessa-  
 rie. Moreouer he had taken and set an order with all the ecclesiasti-  
 all persons of his Diocesse, that at the time of their deaths, they  
 shuld leane & bequeath all their goods to him or to some other in trust,  
*In pios vsus*, and towards his chargeable buildings; & so well he was  
 beloued, & his doings liked, that they all accepted this his order: by  
 meanes whereof he grew within the course of xl. yeares to infinite  
 wealth



wealth and riches. He was in all his life time a plaine man, and bold  
of all vaine glorie and pompe, and preuenting that none should be  
blessed at his buriall, commanded the same to be done plainlie and  
simplie. And that none of his executors, Chaplaines, seruants, nor  
none of his house should weare anie mourning blacke cloths at the  
same, but onelie their accustomable and common apparrell, which  
then was commonlie graie coloured clothes. This Bishop was no  
more graue and wise, than stout and of courage, if occasion so did re-  
quire. And among other things, this is reported of him; that about  
the yeare of our Lord 1331. Simon Mepham, then Archbishop of  
Canturburie, sent his mandatum vnto this Bishop, that he would  
visit his church and diocesse vpon monday next after Ascension daie  
then following. This Bishop (vpon what occasion it is not written)  
did refuse this mandatum, and appealed from the same, aduertising  
the Archbishop that he should not visit his church nor diocesse. Not-  
withstanding, the Archbishop at the time appointed, came to this citie  
and went to S. Peters church, nothing thinking that anie durst to  
withstand him. But the Bishop knowing of his coming, goeth to  
the church doore and meeteth the Archbishop, and forbiddeth him to  
enter into his church; and the Archbishop pressing forward, as with  
force to enter, the Bishop being then well guarded, denieth and re-  
sisteth him: wherevpon the Archbishop departed, and after at a pro-  
uinciall councell holden at London, the Archbishop complained  
hereof, but by meanes of the like discorde betwene him and his suf-  
fraganes, he preuailed not. In this Bishops time one William of  
Excester, a verie well learned man, was a Canon of this church, and  
he joining himselfe with Nicholas de Cefena, Okeham, Walsing-  
ham, and others, did openlie preach, that Christ and his apostles  
were but poore men, and had no temporall possessions: neither was  
anie Emperour or laie man subiect to the Pope, but onelie in matters  
of religion. But when he heard that Pope Iohn the xiiij. had excom-  
municated, and would condemn them all for heretikes; this Wil-  
liam to saue his livings, secretlie thronke away from his old compa-  
nions, and changed his copie, and writeth certeine conclusions a-  
gainst them, and his stone preachings. Also in this Bishops time  
about the yere of our Lord 1340. one Iohn of Wampton, so named,  
because he was borne at Wampton, in this diocesse, and a monke of  
the order of the Carmelites, was a verie good scholar, and first did  
openlie reade Aristotle in the vniuersitie of Cambridge: where he  
was a scholar, and afterwards he studied diuinitie, and was made  
G. j. Doctor,

Doctor, he wrote certeine booke, which are not extant. This Bishop after that he had occupied this church, about xly. yeres, he died vpon S. Swithins daie 1369. and was buried in a chappell, which he builded in the west wall of his owne church.

30 **T**homas Brentingham, after the death of this Iohn Grandisson, was at one instant chosen Bishop of Excester and Bishop of Hereford, who refusing the one toke the other, and was consecrated Bishop of Excester, vpon the tenth of March 1370. being the feast daie of Nereus and Achilles, William of Worcester then Archbishop of Canturburie. This Thomas, was a man verie well learned, and experted both in ecclesiasticall matters, and in politike gouernment, and in both these respects, greatlie reuerenced and esteemed; and for that cause, at the parliament holden at Westminister, in the tenth yere of K. Richard the second, he was chosen to be one of the twelue pæres of the realme vnder the king, he was a benefactor to the Calenderhaie, of the vicars chozall, of his owne church, and performed and supplied in buildings; and otherwise what his predecessors had left vndone, and hauing bene Bishop xxiij. yeres, he died the third of December, anno 1394. and was buried in the North side of the bodie of his owne church.

31 **E**dmond Stafford, vpon the xx. date of June, anno 1395. was consecrated at Lambhith by William Courtwaie, Archbishop of Canturburie, he was borne and descended of noble parentage, being brother to Ralph Lord Stafford, created Earle of Stafford, by K. Edward the third; he was both wise and learned, for his wisdom, he grewe into great credit with the king, and was both of his priue counsell, as also Lord Chancellor of England. At the parliament holden at westminster, the xxi. yere of K. Richard the second, he being then speaker of the higher house, made a verie learned and pithie oration, to proue the absolute authoritie of a king: his theme was, *Rex vnus erit omnibus*, and hauing discoursed at large of the authoritie of a king, did conclude; *Quod potestus regis esset sibi sola unita annexa & solida*, and whosoener did by any meanes impeach the same, *Pena legis meritò esset plectendus*. And for the furtherance of good letters, he did increase two fellowships in the colledge of Stapledons inne in Oxford, reformed the statutes of the house, and altered the name of it, and called it Excester colledge. After that he had continued Bishop in much honour, about xxij. yeres, he died the fourth of September, being the seventh yere of King



King Henrie the fift, and lieth buried in his owne church, in a verie airtie tombe of Alablaster.

**J**ames Carye, Bishop of Chester, being at Florence when Inelwes was brought to Pope Martin the fift, of Bishop Staffords death, was then and there made Bishop of this church, anno 1419. and also consecrated, but long he enioied not his office, for there he died, and was buried.

**E**dmond Lacie, Bishop of Hereford, was translated from thence vnto this church, in the feast of Easter, and in the eight yeare of king Henrie the fift, anno 1420. he was a man verie deuout, and religious, but subiect to flatterers, who carried him to their pleasure; he was a liberall benefactor to the vicar of Calenderhaie, great contentions were betwene him and the citie, for liberties, which by arbitrement were compounded, he founded the chapter house, in his owne church. He was a professor of diuinitie, and very well learned; for in the second yeare of his Bishoprike being the ix. yeare of the kings reigne, there was a parliament holden at Westminster, in which great complaints were made against the loose and dissolute life of the religious men, and especiall the blacke monks. And this matter being brought to the conuocation house, this Bishop as chiefe prolocutor of that assemblie, did make a verie learned and a pithie oration, before the king then of purpose present, and the whole cleargie, much lamenting that the religious men were so far strated from the rules of their professions, and the holynesse of their predecessors. And when he had at large discoursed the same, he deliuered by certeine articles in writing, praising for reformation: which his speeches were so effectuellie vttered, and his articles so effectuellie penned, that both the king and the clergie, did not onelie with great liking and allowance praise and commend the same, but also toke order that there should be a prouinciall Councell called out of hand for a reformation, which was then promised, but not performed, by reason of the kings death, which not long after followed: but yet in the waie of good speed it was then concluded and agreed that euerie third benefice, being of the gift of anie of the prelates, or of anie monasterie, should from thenceforth, for seauen yeeres be given to some scholar of Drenford or Cambridge. This Bishop after he had liued xxxv. yeares in this Bishoprike, died and was buried in the North wall of the quier in his owne church. After whose death manie miracles were said and deuised to be done at his tombe,

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twinbe, whereupon great pilgrimages were made by the common  
people to the same.

34 **G**Eorge Neuell, succeeded Edmond Lacie, and was conse-  
crated in the feast of S. Katharine, anno, 1455. he was of a noble  
parentage, being the second sonne of Richard Neuell Earle of Sa-  
risburie, he finished and ended the chapter house which his predeces-  
sor had begonne. And after that he had bene Bishop about ten  
yeares, he was remoued to Wozke, and made Archbishop there,  
anno. 1465.

35 **J**ohn Bothe, after the translation of George Neuell to Wozke,  
was consecrated Bishop vnder Thomas Burlicher, Archbishop of  
Cantuarburie, vpon the xxij. of Februarie anno. 1466. He was by  
profession a Ciuillian, and a Batcheler of the same, he gouerned his  
church verie well, and builded, as some suppose, the Bishops sea in the  
quier, but being wearie of the great troubles which were in this coun-  
trie, betwene king Edward the fourth, and the Earle of Warwicke,  
he remoued from hence to his house of Wozleigh in Hamshire,  
where in the twelue yeare of his Bishopricke he died vpon the fift daie  
of Aprill, anno. 1478. and lieth buried at S. Clements in London.

36 **P**eter Courtnaie, immediatlie after the death of Bothe,  
was presented to this Bishopricke, and consecrated by Thomas  
Archbishop of Cantuarburie, in November anno. 1477. at S. Ste-  
phens in Westminster; he was the sonne of Sir Phillip Courtnaie  
of Powderham, his mother was named Elizabeth, daughter to  
Walter Lord Hungerford, he for his wisdom and good behauiour  
was in great credit and fauour with king Henrie the seauenth, by  
whose meanes he was translated from this church vnto Winche-  
ster, in the ninth yeare of his being Bishop here, and in the fift yeare  
of his being there, he died vpon the xx. of December, anno. 1491.  
and lieth buried in his owne church. He finished the North tower of  
S. Peters, and gaue the clocke bell which is in the same, and which  
beareth the name Peter.

37 **R**ichard Fox, vpon the remouing of Peter Courtnaie, was  
consecrated Bishop of this church, vnder Thomas Archbishop  
of Cantuarburie 1466. he was a verie wise man, and in great credit  
and estimation with king Henrie the seauenth, vnto whom he was a  
faithfull counsellour, and of his priue Councell; with whom he ac-  
quainted himselfe at Paris, when he was there a student. For king  
Henrie then Earle of Richemond, being at Venice, and aduertised  
how



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how the nobilitie of England was bent to haue him to be their King, came from thence to Paris, and sought vnto Charles then King of France for aid and helpe: in which the Earle his sutes, this Fox was a speciall traveller and counsellor; and in the end, God giuing the successe, the Earle obtained the crowne, and hauing had the triall of the fidelitie, wisdom, and trust of this Bishop, he made him Lord priuie seale; and kept and bled him, and his aduise in all his weightie matters, as well at home as abroad. He being Embassador sundrie times, to the K. of France and Scotland, and of a verie hartie good will and loue, the King made him godfather to his second sonne K. Henrie the eight. There was a kind of emulation, betwene this Bishop and the Earle of Surreie: both of them being verie wise and of great seruice to the King and common-wealth. Nowbeit, in some diuersitie of respects, the one hauing no issue, to care for, did deale without anie priuate affection, or singular gain; and the other hauing issue, was desirous to aduance his house and hono<sup>r</sup>. These affections did breed some dislike betwene them two, yet the king finding a faith vnto himselfe and a commoditie to the common-wealth; misliked it not, if the same exceeded his measure: and they moze warme than commendable for their calling & estates. The king then or the counsell would deale betwene them for the appeasing and pacifying of them, and to them he was both friendlie, louing and liberall. The one he deliuered out of the tower, pardoned him of his offenses, restored him to his lands, receiued him into speciall fauour, made him of his priuie counsell, as also Lord Treasurer of England, and his generall into Scotland, and augmented his liuelihoods. The other he first made Bishop to this church, then remoued him vnto Batho, and from thence vnto Durham, and lastlie vnto Winchester. Erasmus in his booke intituled, the Preacher or Ecclesiastes, declareth how that the king upon a time, wanting some peece of monie, was to borrowe the same of the commons and of the clergie. And for the dealings with the clergie, the matter was by commission committed to this Bishop. When they came before him, bled all the excuses that they could, to thrust themselves from lending of anie money: some came verie seemelle and well apparrelled, and awaited vpon by their men, according to their liuelihoods, and these alledged, that they were grea<sup>t</sup>ly charged in hospitalitie, and house keeping, with other charges incident to the same, so that they had no money, and therfore could paie none. Some came poorelie and barelie apparrelled, and they alledged that their

liuelihoods were but small, and yet their charges great, and by that means the world was so hard with them, that they had it not to spare. This bishop hauing heard all these excuses, vsed this dilemme: to the ritcher so: he said, For as much as you are so well and semlie apparelled, and doe keepe so great houses, and haue all things necessarie about you, it is a manifest argument, that you haue some store about you, or els you would not doe as ye doe: and therefore ye must needs lend. To the others who pretend excuse of their pouertie, he thus replied vnto them; that For as much as they were so bare in their apparel, and so sparing of their expenses. It must needs be that they saued their purses and had money, and therefore they must needs paie, and so aduidge them to lend vnto the prince. As he rose by learning, so he was a great fauor and furtherer of learning, and for the good increase of the same, he builded and founded *Corporis christi* colledge in Orenford. In his latter daies he waxed and was blind, and dieng in Winchester, he was there buried in his owne church, after that he had bene Bishop of Excester six yeares, he was remoued to Bathe, anno. 1492.

38 **O**liuer King, immediatlie vpon the transferring of Bishop Fox, was consecrated Bishop of this church, in Februarie 1492. John Morton, then Archbishop of Canturburie. This Oliuer was chaplaine to king Henrie the seauenth, and Deane of Windsor, and register of the order of the Garter. In his time were the rebellions of Ioseph the Blache-Smith, in Cornetwall, and of Perken Warebeke. This Bishop after that he had occupied this see about five yeares, he died, anno. 1497. and as some suppose, he was buried at Windsor.

39 **R**ichard Redman, immediatlie vpon the death of Bishop Oliuer King, was translated from his Bishopricke in Wales, vnto this citie; but after five yeares he was remoued vnto the Bishopricke of Ely, and installed there in September, anno. 1501. He was a Gentleman borne, and descended of a verie worshipfull house, which ioined with his wisedome and learning, did much increase his credit and good report.

40 **J**ohn Arundell, next after the translation of Bishop Redman, was remoued from Copentrie and Lichfield, vnto this citie, and was installed the 10. of March 1501. Wherein he sought not the preferment for anie liuelihoods, but rather desirous to be a diueller and resident in his countrie where he was borne, for he was descended of the



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the Arundels of Lanherne in Cornetwall, a house of great antiquitie and worship. He long enioied not his new Bishoprike, for after two yeares after his installing, he had occasion to ride into London, and there died and was buried in Saint Clements church without Templebarre, anno. 1503.

**H**ew Oldham, vpon the death of Arundell, by the preferment of the Countesse of Richmond and Darbie, vnto whom he was Chaplaine, was preferred vnto this Bishoprike, and installed in the same. He was a man hauing more zeale than knowledge, and more deuotion than learning; somewhat roughe in speeches, but frendlie in doings. He was carefull in the sauing and defending of his liberties, for which, continuall suites was betwene him, and the Abbat of Canestoke, he was liberall to the vicars chorall of his church; and reduced them to the keeping of commons, and towards the maintenance thereof, he gaue them certeine renenewes, and impropriated vnto them the rectorie of Cornwood; he albeit (of himselfe) he were not learned, yet a great fauourer and a furtherer of learning, and of learned men. Notwithstanding, he was sometime crossed, in his honest attempt therein. He first was minded to haue enlarged Excester colledge, in Orford; as well in buildings, as in fellowships. But after being a requester to the fellowes for one Atkins, to be a fellowe; in whose fauour he had written his letters, and was denied, he changed his mind, and his good will was alienated. About the same time, Doctor Smith Bishop of Lincolne, was building of the colledge, named Brasen nose, and was verie willing and desirous to ioine with him: but being denied to haue the nomination of a founder, his mind was changed. Not long after being aduertised, that Bishop Fox of Winchester, was minded to erect and found a new colledge, ioined with him, and contributed vnto him a great masse of monie, and so a colledge was builded for scholers, and great liuelihoods provided for them: and then the house was named *Corporis christi* colledge. Whereof the one of them bare the name of a founder, and the other of a benefactor. Howbeit some diuersitie was betwene these two Bishops, at the first, to what vse this colledge should be imployed: for the founder was of the minde that he would haue made it for a house of monks, but the benefactor was of the contrarie mind, and would haue it for scholers; alledging that monks were but a sort of bustling flies, and whose state could not long indure; whereas scholers brought vp in learning, would be profitable members to the common wealth, and good ornaments to

the church of God, and continue for ever. The former being a wise man, and of a deepe judgement, when he had well patrolled and considered hereof, perceiveth hereunto: and so it was concluded betwene them, to make and build a colledge for scholars. And forthwith for the good direction, guiding, and government of the said colledge, and scholars; such wise, good, and politike statutes and ordinances were by good advise and counsell devised, stablished, and ordeined; as where by the said colledge hath bene, and yet continueth one of the best nurseries for training and instructing of good scholars in learning within that universitie. This bishop and the abbat of Tanesstoke did still contend and continue in lawe, during their lives: and during which sute, this bishop died, being excommunicated at Rome, and who could not be suffered to be buried, untill an absolution from Rome was procured for him, after that he had bene Bishop about xvi. yeeres he died the xvj. of June, 1519. and was buried in his owne church.

42

**John Voiscie**, otherwise Harman, succeeded Oldham, by the preferment of H. Henrie the eight, whose chapelaine he then was, and Deane of his chappell, as also of this church, he was Doctor of the lawes, verie well learned and wise, and in great favour with the king, who sent him sundrie times in embassages to forreine princes, he was Lord president of wales, and had the government of the kings onelie daughter, Ladie Marie princeesse of wales. Of all the Bishops in the land, he was accompted the courtlikeliest, and the best courtier, and although he were well reported for his learning, yet better liked for his courtlike behaviour, which in the end turned not so much to his credit, as to the utter ruine and spoile of the Church: for of xxi. Lordships and manors, which his predecessors had, and left unto him, of a goodlie yecelle revenue, he left but thre, and them also leased out. And where he found xlii. houses well furnished, he left onelie one house bare, and without furniture, and yet charged with sundrie fees and annuities; and by these meanes this Bishop's see, which sometimes was counted one of the best, is now become in temporall lands, one of the meapest: and according to the foreprophelieng of Bishop Grandison, a place was left for the Bishop to late and rest his head in, and yet heerethelike, he was a great favourer of learned men, and especiallie of Divines, whom he preferred in his church above others. He was verie bountious and liberall unto all men, but especiallie unto courtiers, unto his owne kindred, and contriem:n. Upon manie he bestowed much, unto the confusi-



on of some of them; and vpon the other he spent much, by building of a towne, named Sutton Colshull where he was bozne, which he procured to be incorporated, & made a market towne: and set vp therein making of hearsties, but all which in the end came to small effect; in his time, after the death of King Henrie the eight, there was an alteration of religion, by King Edward the sixt, whereof insued rebellion, and a commotion in this diocesse: which in some part was imputed to this Bishop, bicause he laie farre from it, and dwelled in his owne countrie. Wherevpon he resigned the Bishoprike, into the kings hands; after that he had been Bishop about xxx. yeres, and liued by the rents of the tempozaltie of the Bishoprike, which when he alienated, and discontinued, he did receiue vnto him, for fearme of his owne life.

**M**iles Couerdale, after the resignation of Voisie, was by king Edward made Bishop of this citie, and consecrated at Lambeth by Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canturburie, anno. 1550. He was bozne in the North countrie, and from his childhood giuen to learning, wherein he profited verie much: he was one of the first which professed the Gospell in this land; in the time of king Henrie the eight, he translated the Bible out of the Hebzeue into English, and wrote sundrie bookes vpon the scriptures, which doctrine being verie new and strange in those daies, and he verie straightlie pursued by the Bishops, made his escape, and passed ouer into lowe Germanie, where he printed the Bibles of his translation, and sent them ouer into England, and thereof made his gaine, whereby he liued: but the Bishops, namelie Doctor Stokesley, Bishop of London, when he heard hereof, and minding to preuent that no such bibles should be dispersed within this realme, made inquirie where they were to be sold, and bought them all vp, supposing that by this means no more Bibles would be had, but contrarie to his expectation, it fell out otherwise; for the same monie which the Bishop gaue for these bookes, was sent ouer by the merchant vnto this Couerdale, and by that meanes he was of that wealth and abilitie, that he imprinted as manie more, and sent them ouer into England; but he was then so narrowlie sought for, that he was driven to remoue himselfe out of Flanders into Germanie, and dwelled vnder the Palisgrau

of Athene, where he found much favour; first he taught young children, and having learned the dutch tongue, the prince Palatine gaue him a benefice, named Burghfader, where he continued and lived verie well, partlie by that benefice, and partlie by the liberalitie of the Lord Cromewell, who was his good Lord and retained him verie much. At length when the religion was altered in England, and the Gospell had a free passage, he returned and did verie much good in preaching of the same. And when the commotion in Denon was for religion, he was appointed to attend the Lord Russell, when he came to suppress the same, and verie shortlie for his learning and godlie life was made Bishop of this sea: who most worthilie did performe the office committed vnto him, he preached continually vpon euerie holie daie, and did read most commonlie twice in the weeke, in some one church or other within this citie. He was after the rate of his livings, a great keeper of hospitalitie, verie sober in diet, godlie in life, frendlie to the godly, liberall to the poore, and courteous to all men; void of pride, full of humilitie, abhorring couetousnes, and an enimie to all wickednesse, and wicked men: whose companies he shunned, and whom he would in no wise shrowd, or haue in his house and companie. His wife a most sober, chaste, and godlie matrone; his house and household, another church, in which was exercised all godlinesse and vertue. No one person being in his house, which did not from time to time, giue an account of his faith and religion, and also did liue accordingly: and as he had a care for the good successe in religion, so had he also for the direction of the government in ecclesiasticall causes: and because he he was not skilfull therein, neither would he hindered from his godlie studies, and be incumbered with such worldlie matters, which neuerthelesse he would haue he done in all brightness, iustice, and equitie, he sent to Oxford for a learned man, to be his Chancelloz, and by the ministerie of the wyter hereof, he procured and obtained one Maister Robert weston, Doctor of the ciuill lawe, and afterwards Lord Chancelloz of Ireland, vnto whom he committed his consistorie, and the whole charge of his ecclesiasticall iurisdiction, allowing vnto him, not onelie all the fees therevnto apperteyning, but also lodged and found him, his wife, familie, horse, and man, within his owne house, and



and gave him a p[er]celle pension of xl. pound. And surely the Bi-  
shop was no more goodlie and carefull of his part, concerning  
preaching, but this man also was as diligent and seuer in do-  
ing of his office, without reproch of being affectionated or cor-  
rupted. And notwithstanding this good man, now a blame-  
lesse Bishop, and liued most goodlie and vertuous, yet the com-  
mon people, whose old hostels would receiue no new wine,  
could not brooke nor digest him; for no other cause, but because  
he was a preacher of the Gospell, an enemy to papistris, and a  
married man. Many deuises were accompted against him,  
for his confusion; sometimes by false suggestions, sometimes  
by open railings, and false libelles; sometimes by secret back-  
bitings; and in the end practised his death by impossioning, but  
by the prouidence of God, the snares were broken and he deliue-  
red. After that he had bene Bishop about thre yeres. Edward  
died, and then Quene Marie hauing the crowne, the re-  
ligion was altered, and he dep[ri]ued. And notwithstanding,  
the malice of the Prelats and archpapists, was most bitter a-  
gainst him, and who had sworne his death, yet by the goodnesse  
of God, he was most miracoully preserued, and deliuered from  
out of their hands, at the sute and by the meanes of the king of  
Denmarke: who so earnestly seued, and so often wrote to the  
Quene for him, that he was deliuered and sent vnto him, with  
whom after that he had staied a while, he went againe into Ger-  
manie vnto the Palsgrave, who most longingly receiued him,  
placed him againe in his former benefice of Burghsaber, where  
he continued untill the death of Q. Marie. And then the prea-  
ching of the Gospell being againe receiued, and hauing a free  
passage, he returned into England, but would neuer returne  
to his Bishopricke; notwithstanding it was reserued for him:  
and sundrie times offered him, but liued a private life, continu-  
ing in London, preaching and teaching the Gospell, so long as  
the strength of his bodie would permit; and at length being be-  
come old and stricken in yeres, he died and was honourable bur-  
ied at S. Magnus church in London.

**J**ohn Voiseie, after the dep[ri]uation of Miles Couerdale,  
was restored to this church, and for the better setting of the  
Romish religion, did here stae for a while: but his mind was  
adicted to his own countrie, that he returned thither, and made

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his

his onellie abode there, practising there what he could, to haue the making of kersies, to come to seme effect; but the same being moze chargeable than profitable, came to small effect: this man being verie old died in his owne house, with a pang, and was buried in his parish church there, anno 1555.

45

**J**ames Troublefield, succéded Bishop Voiseie, and was consecrated, anno 1556. he was a gentleman bozne, and of a good house, verie gentle and courteous, he professed diuinitie, but most zelous in the Romish religion, & yet nothing cruell nor bloodie. And yet that he might not seme to do nothing, he was contented to prosecute and condemne a gilltes poore seelie woman, named Agnes Pirest for religion & heresie, & who was burned in Southingham for the same; it was laied to his charge as doth appere, by an inditement taken at Laureston, *Dieluna in quarta septimana quadragesima anno Philippi & Maria, secundo & tertio*, before William Stanford, then iustice of the assise, that she should denie the reall presence in the sacrament of the altar: and that the same was but a signe and a figure of Christs bodie, and that none doth eate reallie the bodie of Christ but spirituallie. He was verie carefull to reconer some part of the lands of his Bishoprike, which his predecessoz wasted, and did obtaine of M. Marie, to him and to his successors, the fee ferme of the manor of Crediton. After that he had bene Bishop about two yeares M. Marie died, and he was depriued, and lived after a priuate life.

46

**W**illiam Alleie, in the second yeare of M. Elizabeth, was chosen Bishop, and installed the sixt of August, 1561. In all M. Maries time, which were called the Marian daies, he travelled from place to place, in the North countrie, where he was not knowne; and sometimes by practising of physick, and sometimes by teaching of scholers, he picked out a poore liuing for himselfe and his wiffe, and so continued, being not knowne to haue bene a preest, during all M. Maries time: after whose death he went to London, and there did reade diuinitie lecture in Pauls verie learnedlie, and to his great commendation; and from thence he was taken and made Bishop of this citie. He was verie well learned vniuersallie, but his cheefe studie and profession was in diuinitie, and in the tongs.

And



And being Bishop, he devoted his part of his former travels, but spent his time verie godlie and vertuous. Upon euerie ho-  
lye daie for the most part he preached, and upon the week daies  
he would and did reade a lecture of diuinitie; the rest of his  
time, and free from his necessarie businesse, he spent in his pri-  
uate studies, and wrote sundrie booke, whereof his predilections  
or lectures which he did reade in Dorset, and his poore mans li-  
brarie he caused to be imprinted: the like he would haue done  
with his Hebrie grammar, and other his works, if he had li-  
ued. He was well stored, and his librarie well replenished,  
with all the best sort of writers, which most gladlie he would im-  
part and make open to euerie good scholar and student, whose  
companie and conference he did most desire and embrace: he  
seemed to the first apparence, to be a rough and an austere man,  
but in verie truth, a verie courteous, gentle, and an affable  
man; at his table full of honest speeches, ioined with learning,  
and pleasantnesse, according to the time, place, and companie.  
All his exercises which for the most part was at bowles, verie  
merrie and pleasant, void of all sadness, which might abate  
the benefit of recreation, loth to offend, ready to forgive, void of  
malice, full of loue, bountifull in hospitalitie, liberall to the poore,  
and a succourer of the needie, faithfull to his friend, and courte-  
ous to all men; a hater of countousnesse, and an enemie to all  
euill and wicked men, and liued an honest, a godlie, and vertu-  
ous life. Finally he was endued with manie notable good gifts  
and vertues, onelie he was somewhat credulous, and of a hasty  
beliefe, and of light credit, which he did oftentimes mislike, and  
blame in himselfe; in his latter time, he wearied somewhat grosse,  
and his bodie full of humors, which did abate much of his wont-  
ed exercises, and hauing bene Bishop about eight yeares he  
died the first of Aprill 1570. and was buried in his own church.

**W**illiam Bradbridge, Deane of Sarisburie, was  
the next Bishop, & consecrated at Lambhith, by Mat-  
thew Parker, Archbishop of Canturburie, the 18. of March 1570.  
he was a professor of diuinitie, but not taken to be so well  
grounded as he perswaded himselfe, he was zelous in religion,  
but not so forwards as he was wished to be, in his latter daies,  
he delighted to dwell in the contrie, which was not so much to  
his liking, as troublesome to his cleargie, & to such as had any  
sutes

lutes into him; it was thought he died verie rich, but after his death it proved otherwise, he died suddenlie, no bodie being about him at Petoton ferris, the ninth yeare of his Bishoppske, upon the xxix. of Iulie 1578. and was buried in his owne church.

48

**I**ohn V Volton, now living, next after Bradbridge, was called to be Bishop of the sea, and consecrated at Lambeth, by Edmond Grendall, Archbishop of Canturburie, in August 1579. He is a professor of diuinitie, and a preacher of the Gospel, and vniuersallie scene in all good letters; great good things are looked and hoped for at his hands, and that he being now made a watchman ouer the house of Israel, and a shepheard ouer the Lords flocke, to be a minister of the Gospel, and a disposer of Gods holie mysteries, will attend the same, and performe the office of a true Bishop, in preaching in season and out of season, not by constraint or slothlie, but willingly and gladly; not for filthy lucre, but of a readie mind: by leading an vnreproueable life, to be example of good works, in all sobriety, patience, gentlenes, and integritie. And that he living thus godlie in this life, may not onlie haue a good report to the posteritie; but also looke for the blessed hope and appearing of the glorie of God and of our Saniour Iesus Christ, that when he shall present himselfe and his talent the people of God before the high and chiefe shepheard, they may all enter into the Lords iole, and receiue an incorruptible crowne of glorie.

**FINIS.**



VV



